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# Letter dated 9 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and the joint letter dated 15 December 2015 from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, I have the honour to transmit a letter by Daniel Mitov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, conveying the decision of the Government of Bulgaria to nominate Ms. Irina Bokova, current Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

I would kindly ask for your assistance in circulating the letter among the States Members of the United Nations as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stefan Tafrov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 9 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

## Letter dated 9 February 2016 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and in response to the joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council dated 15 December 2015 (A/70/623-S/2015/988), I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has decided to nominate Ms. Irina Bokova, current Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ms. Bokova has extensive professional experience and leadership skills as a long-time politician and diplomat with proven competence in the field of multilateral diplomacy and international relations. She has held prominent positions at both the governmental and international levels.

Ms. Bokova is strongly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and has acquired valuable United Nations experience and managerial skills as Director General of one of the largest United Nations agencies, namely UNESCO. Ms. Bokova is highly respected internationally for her outstanding ability to garner vast support behind important United Nations initiatives promoting peace, human rights, access to education, gender equality and ethnic and religious tolerance. Her multilingual abilities are another important asset. Ms. Bokova's re-election at the helm of UNESCO testifies to the widespread support and recognition that she enjoys among United Nations Member States.

By submitting the candidature of Ms. Bokova, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria is fully convinced of her capacity, political experience and commitment to successfully fulfil the highly demanding functions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ms. Bokova's curriculum vitae is attached herewith for reference (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Daniel Mitov
Minister for Foreign Affairs

## Enclosure

## Curriculum vitae*

## Irina Bokova (Bulgaria)

Irina Bokova, born on 12 July 1952 in Sofia, has been the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 15 November 2009 and was successfully re-elected for a second term in 2013. She is the first woman and the first Eastern European to lead UNESCO.

As Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova is actively engaged in international efforts to advance gender equality and quality education for all and to combat terrorist financing by preventing the illicit traffic of cultural goods. A leading champion in the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, Bokova has spearheaded UNESCO activities on Holocaust remembrance and awareness and is the first Director General of UNESCO to appoint a Special Envoy for Holocaust Education.

She is a leading advocate for ensuring quality education for all and has championed gender equality, making it her own personal priority for the Organization. Other fields of action include enabling scientific cooperation for sustainable development, such as early warning systems for tsunamis or transboundary water management agreements, and global advocacy for the safety of journalists and freedom of expression.

Having graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and studied at the University of Maryland and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Irina Bokova joined the United Nations Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1977. In charge of political and legal affairs at the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York, she was also member of the Bulgarian delegation to the United Nations conferences on the equality of women held in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). As a Member of Parliament (1990-1991 and 2001-2005), she advocated for Bulgaria's membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and participated in the drafting of Bulgaria's new Constitution.

Irina Bokova was Minister for Foreign Affairs a.i., Coordinator of Bulgaria-European Union relations and Ambassador of Bulgaria to France, Monaco and UNESCO, as well as the Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to the International Organization of la Francophonie. As Secretary of the Council of Ministers for European Integration and as Minister for Foreign Affairs a.i., Irina Bokova has always advocated for European integration. She is a founding member and Chairman of the European Policy Forum, a non-governmental organization created to promote European identity and encourage dialogue to overcome divisions in Europe. This is an example of her work to endorse the values of dialogue, diversity, human dignity and human rights.

Irina Bokova is Executive Secretary of the Steering Committee of the Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative and Co-Vice-Chair of the

* Curriculum vitae are issued without formal editing.

Broadband Commission. Since 2014, she has been chairing the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Irina Bokova has received State distinctions from countries across the world and is a doctor honoris causa of leading universities.

In addition to her mother tongue, she speaks English, French, Spanish and Russian.

## Professional experience

### Previous positions

*From 2005 to 2009*

- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to France and Monaco
- Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Bulgaria to UNESCO
- Representative of the Bulgarian Government to the Executive Board of UNESCO (2007-2009)
- Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to the International Organization of la Francophonie
- Deputy Chairperson, Group of Francophone Countries at UNESCO
- Chairperson of the second extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (February 2008, Sofia)
- Member of the literary group "Prix des Ambassadeurs"

### Parliamentary experience

*Member of Bulgarian Parliament 2001-2005*

- Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Policy, Defence and Security Committee
- Member of the European Integration Committee
- Deputy Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

*Member of the Constituent National Assembly 1990-1991*

Responsible for the development of the New Democratic Constitution

### Professional experience between 1977 and 1997

- 1995-1997

  Secretary of the Council of Ministers for European Integration, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, First Deputy Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs a.i.

- 1977-1990

  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia, member of several Bulgarian delegations to the United Nations, in particular the delegations to the World Conferences on Women held in Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985). Vice-President of the Bulgarian delegation to the World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995)

- 1991-1992

  Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia

- 1984-1990

  Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sofia

- 1982-1984

  Diplomat, Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations, New York

**Education and studies**

- Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Programme in Leadership and Economic Development (November-December 1999)
- NATO fellow, Programme for Central and Eastern Europe on democratic institutions focusing on the national and legal mechanism for the protection of minorities (September 1992-December 1994)
- University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, Ford Foundation fellow, programme on the US foreign policy decision-making process (January-August 1989, USA)
- Moscow State Institute of International Relations

  MA in international relations (1976)

- English secondary school, Sofia (1971)

**Distinctions**

**State distinctions**

- Polar Star Order, Mongolia, November 2015
- Title of Commander of the Order of the Legion of Honour, Mali, July 2015
- Title of Commander of the Legion of Honour, France, April 2015
- Grand Officer of the Order of Valour of Cameroon, September 2014
- Title of Commander of the Order of Ouissam Alaouite, Rabat, July 2014
- Title of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, France, May 2014
- Magtymguly Pyragy State Medal, Turkmenistan, May 2014
- Order of "Stara Planina with ribbon", Bulgaria, April 2014
- Order of "Friendship", Kazakhstan, April 2014
- Hilal-i-Pakistan Award, Pakistan, February 2014

- Order of Diplomatic Service Merit "Gwanghwa medal", Republic of Korea, February 2014
- National Order "Juan Mora Fernández", Costa Rica, November 2013
- Order of the People's Friendship of the Republic of Bashkortostan, October 2013
- "Condecoracion de la Orden Jose Matias Delgado" at the grade of Grand Officer, El Salvador, May 2013
- Officer in the Order of Cultural Merit, Monaco, March 2013
- Title of Commander of the National Order of Benin, June 2012
- Grand Chancellor of the National Order of Chad, March 2012
- Grand Cross of the Order of The Sun of Peru, the highest State distinction bestowed by Peru, February 2011
- Many distinctions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria for contributing to the development of Bulgarian foreign policy

**Academic distinctions**

- Doctor Honoris Causa from the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, December 2015
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, October 2015
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, January 2015
- KOÇ-KAM Semahat Arsel Distinguished Fellow at Koç University, Turkey, January 2015
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts, France, October 2014
- Title of Honourable Graduate from Poggio Imperiale, Italy, October 2014
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon, September 2014
- Honourable Medal and Diploma, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine, April 2014
- Doctor Honoris Causa in Humanities from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, September 2013
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Eurasian National University, Astana, August 2013
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam, Ha Noi, June 2013
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Tongji University, Shanghai, China, May 2013
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, February 2013

- Doctor Honoris Causa of Letters from Durham University, United Kingdom, June 2012
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, June 2012
- Honorary Distinction from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, June 2012
- Honorary Distinction from the Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, June 2012
- Honorary Professor from the Tongji University, Shanghai, China, May 2012
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 2012
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Algiers 1, Algeria, April 2012
- Honorary Professor from Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russian Federation, September 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Ulaanbaatar, July 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, June 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center at Haifa University, Israel, May 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Studies of Bucharest, Romania, April 2011
- Quadricentennial Golden Cross Award from University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, March 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Philippine Normal University, Manila, March 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa in Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima, February 2011
- Doctor Honoris Causa from the National University of San Martin, Buenos Aires, December 2010
- Doctor Honoris Causa from St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, October 2010
- Laurea Honoris Causa in European and International Politics from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy, October 2010
- Doctor Honoris Causa from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Federation, September 2010
- Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy and Political Science from Ewha Women's University, Seoul, May 2010



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**Prizes and other distinctions**

- Chydenius Medal, Anders Chydenius Foundation and Association for Chydenius Institute, Finland, December 2015
- Simon Wiesenthal Centre International Distinguished Service Award, November 2015
- Mostar Peace Connection Award for 2015, Peace and Multi-Ethnic Cooperation, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 2015
- Honorary Member of the Council of Women in Business, Bulgaria, June 2015
- Honorary Citizen of Sofia, Bulgaria, January 2015
- Al-Fakhr Decoration, Council of Muslim Leaders of the Russian Federation, December 2014
- Cultural Merit Recognition in the Category "Marina Nunez del Prado", Minister of Culture, Bolivia, June 2014
- Honorary Medal of TURKSOY, the International Organization of Turkic Cultures, Turkey, April 2014
- Taras Shevchenko Medal in recognition of her contribution to culture and to science, Junior Academy of Sciences, Ukraine, April 2014
- Freedom Award, International Peace Center, Sarajevo, December 2012
- Etoile de l'Europe Distinction of the Robert Schuman Foundation, France, April 2012
- Honorary Award, Ladies First International, April 2011
- Laureate of the Golden Lyre, Distinction of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers for the promotion of Bulgarian music and performance art in France

**Main publications**

- "Bulgaria and ethnic tensions in the Balkans", Mediterranean Quarterly, January 1991
- "Monitoring Bulgaria's accession to the European Union", European Policy Forum, annual publications 1999, 2000 and 2001
- "Integration of South-Eastern Europe into the European mainstream", Journal of South East and Black Sea Studies, October 2000
- "Einbahnstrasse EU-Erweiterung", Schüren Verlag, Marburg, Germany, September 2001
- Numerous articles on foreign policy and European integration issues
- Opinion pieces on culture, heritage, education and science